Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-10 and 23-33 (Currently Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) A method for measuring sub-clinical or clinical inflammation or irritation of mammalian skin from exposure of said skin to a topical skin care product comprising anionic surfactant~~, exposure to an external aggression or combinations thereof~~, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) collecting secretions from the surface of said skin using a non-invasive collection procedure comprising a non-invasive collection device;

(b) measuring a baseline level of eicosanoid in the secretions collected from the surface of said skin;

(c) exposing said skin to a topical skin care product, to an external aggression or combinations thereof;

(d) collecting secretions from the surface of said skin using a non-invasive collection device after step (c);

(e) measuring the level of eicosanoid in the secretions collected from the surface of said skin after step (c); and

(f) comparing the level of eicosanoid determined in step (e) with the level of eicosanoid determined in step (b).

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said non-invasive collection procedure comprises using a non-invasive collection device, said noninvasive collection device selected from the group consisting of an uncoated non-porous plastic film, an uncoated microporous plastic film, an adhesive-coated nonporous plastic film, an adhesive-coated microporous plastic film, a woven fibrous web, a non-woven fibrous web, a natural sponge, a synthetic sponge and a plastic foam.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said non-invasive collection device comprises an adhesive-coated microporous plastic film.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said eicosanoid is prostaglandin.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said prostaglandin is prostaglandin E_2.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the level of eicosanoid is measured using at least one immunoassay technique selected from the group consisting of RIA, EIA and ELISA.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the level of eicosanoid is measured using analytical techniques selected from the group consisting of GC/MS, HPLC, and TLC.

18. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of measuring the level of at least one cytokine in the secretions collected from the surface of said skin by said device before and after step (c).

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein said cytokine is interleukin-1α.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 18, wherein said cytokine is interleukin-1α and said eicosanoid is prostaglandin E_2.

21. (Original) A method according to claim 11, wherein step (d) is performed about 24 hours after step (c).

22. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:

measuring the level of protein in the skin secretions and normalizing the level of eicosanoid to the level of protein.